

## RAJYA SABHA

[7 December, 2006]

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14.	Front Sunda, Marshall , Island, Crude Oil Tanker/24 Years	19/6/2006,04 24.13N 1069 15.5E,at Sea	Missing	1	Southwest Tankers Incl. Liberia (Owners). ITM Holding Ltd., (Managers), Al Mankhool Road, Dubai United ARAB EMIRATES
15.	Garware-V, Indian, Offshore Supply Vessel/22 Years	15/7/2006, Bombay High Offshore, at Sea	Missing	1	Reg Owners & Managers: Garware Offshore Services Ltd. Nariman Point, Mumbai INDIA.
16.	MV Bright Artemis & MV Amar, Singapore, Crude Oil Tanker/ 24 Years	14/8/2006, Sri Lankan SRR at Sea	Missing	1	Intercontinental Mari- time, Amar Trans Singapore. Tel.:
17.	MV Gati-Zip, Indian, General Cargo/ 23 Years	1/11/2006, Off MIRI, Malaysia, at Sea	Missing	1	M/s. Gati Coast to Coast Laxmi Towers, 2nd Flr. 27/5, Dr. Radhakrishnan Salai, Mylapore, Chennai-600004. Fax:044-28114269, E- mail: <a href="mailto:gatiship@eth.net">gatiship@eth.net</a> .
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*Summary of loss of lives/missing**Indian seafarers in high seas for Years**2005 and 2006:*

Incidents	2005	2006	Total
Death	13	12	25
Missing	16	6	22
Total number of lives lost/missing	29	18	47

**Indian forced to cross over to Iraq**

1711. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Competent authority is aware of the fact that many Indian employees recruited by travel agencies for U.S. logistics companies based

in Kuwait are being forced to cross over to Iraq without proper document and are forced to face the ire of Iraqi people;

(b) if so, the steps taken in details to protect the Indian workers from above as on today; and

(c) the steps taken to control such travel agencies in detail including the action taken if any as on today?

**THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI):** (a) Instances of diversion to Iraq of Indian workers actually recruited for Kuwait have come to notice. In many cases Kuwait based companies forced the workers to go to Iraq, while, in some cases the workers have been reported to have gone to Iraq on their own.

(b) The Government of India has imposed a ban on travel of Indian nationals to Iraq keeping in view the security situation. The Government has from time to time given publicity through the media requesting the Indian nationals not to go to Iraq. Embassy of India, Kuwait have also requested the Kuwait companies to honour the decision of Government of India. For emigration clearance to the workers going to Kuwait, attestation of employment documents by the Indian Mission has been made mandatory.

(c) As and when such instances come to notice, action is taken against the erring agent under Section 14 of the Emigration Act, 1983. In the case of unregistered/illegal Recruiting Agents, the concerned State police authorities are advised to take action to prosecute them under the Emigration Act, 1983. During the year, as per records available, 23 cases of unregistered Recruiting Agents have been referred to the Police authorities for penal action. Besides, action has been taken against 05 registered Recruiting Agents under the Emigration Act, 1983.

#### **Killings of Indian working abroad**

**1712. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY:** Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the abduction and killings of Indians working abroad have increased in recent years;

(b) if so, the details thereof since last five years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that number of unauthorized placement agencies are working and sending workers abroad;

(d) the total number of workers working in Gulf countries and non-gulf countries with work permits, country-wise; and

(e) whether Government are contemplating any comprehensive plan to take up the matter with the respective Governments?